

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:I M SILINS
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:N G ANDREWS
EUR:W H LUERS (DRAFT)
OES/ENP/PO:T NELSON (SUBS)
EUR/SOV:M LEVITSKY

-----033052 011120Z /15

R 312225Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EEWT, CVIS, CPRS, PARM, SPOP, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LUERS

1. SUMMARY. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CALLED ON DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS MAY 30. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN-
CLUDED UPCOMING HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN EMIGRATION AND TRADE
AGREEMENT, US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND THE TUDOR CLAIM. NICO-
LAE REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE THE
ACTIVITY OF THE UN-ROMANIAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER BEYOND 1979.
END SUMMARY.

2. HEARINGS ON MFN/EMIGRATION. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE POINTED
TO THE CLOSE VOTE ON THE HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT, BUT
COMMENTED THAT CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI HAD PROMISED HIS SUP-
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PORT FOR THE ROMANIAN WAIVER IF REQUESTED BY VANIK. NICO-
LAE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH DERWINSKI BEFORE THE HUNGARIAN
VOTE. LUERS AGREED THAT THE CLOSE VOTE ON HUNGARY WAS A
SIGN OF POSSIBLE TROUBLE. HE SAID THAT CONG. VANIK HAD
TOLD HIM THAT VANIK WAS NOT AFRAID THE SENATE WOULD VOTE
AGAINST HUNGARY, BUT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE HOUSE MIGHT
VOTE AGAINST ROMANIA. LUERS SAID WE WILL NEED TO GET SUP-

PORT FROM KEY MEMBERS, OF WHOM DERWINSKI IS CERTAINLY ONE.
WE WILL BE TALKING TO VANIK SOON. (BEFORE LUERS/NICOLAE

MEETING, THE DESK OFFICER HAD STRESSED TO NICOLAE THE
IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING LONGSTANDING EMIGRATION CASES.)
LUERS ALSO RAISED THE TUDOR CLAIM, COMMENTING THAT SENATOR
LONG MIGHT USE THIS TO BLOCK MFN. LUERS SAID WE NEED A
WRITTEN ROMANIAN RESPONSE TO OUR PREVIOUS INQUIRIES.

3. US-SOVIET RELATIONS. POINTING TO RECENT SPEECHES BY
PRESIDENT CARTER AND NSC ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AND SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S VISIT HERE, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE
ASKED FOR AN UPDATE ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS. LUERS REPLIED
THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW DEEP ARE THE FACTORS BE-
ING PLAYED OUT IN THE PRESS. PRESS PLAY IN THE U.S. OFTEN
GIVES A SENSE OF DRAMA THAT MAY NOT BE WARRANTED. LUERS
SAID THAT IT WAS HIS SENSE THAT THE ROOTS OF US-SOVIET
COMMITMENT TO SEEK COOPERATION IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS,
PARTICULARLY ARMS CONTROL, RUN QUITE DEEP. LUERS SAID,
HOWEVER, THAT THE US IS TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO CONVEY TO
THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS THAT THEY MUST RESTRAIN THE USE
OF FORCE IN AFRICA. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO SEE HOW THEY
RESPOND TO THIS MESSAGE. IN ADDITION, THERE IS THE QUEST-
ION OF THE MOSCOW TRIALS. LUERS COMMENTED THAT THE TRIAL
OF ORLOV IS AS CRUDE A DISPLAY OF "SOVIET JUSTICE" AS THE
USSR HAS DEMONSTRATED IN SOME TIME. THEY HAVE OBVIOUSLY
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CHOSEN TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF ORLOV AND POSSIBLY SHCHARAN-
SKIY AND GINZBURG. SUCH ACTIONS ARE BOUND TO ANTAGONIZE
GROUPS IN THIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING SCIENTISTS, AS WE HAVE
RECENTLY SEEN. IT IS BOUND TO HAVE AN IMPACT AND WE DO
NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE SOVIETS ARE SO DETERMINED TO FLAUNT
CSCE AND WESTERN CONCERNS.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, SALT AND OTHER ARMS-CONTROL NEGOTIA-
TIONS CONTINUE TO PROGRESS. PROPOSALS MADE DURING THE
GROMYKO VISIT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. THERE IS STILL NO
AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES, BUT SECRETARY VANCE
AND GROMYKO WILL MEET AGAIN ON MAY 31. WE HOPE THE GAP
BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET POSITIONS CAN BE CLOSED SOON.
WHAT THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, AND DR. BRZEZINSKI ARE
SAYING, LUERS SAID, IS THAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE CAUSED
BY SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA AND THE MOSCOW
TRIALS CANNOT HELP BUT AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO GET CONGRESS-
IONAL BACKING FOR THE SALT AGREEMENT. LUERS COMMENTED
THAT WE MAY ALREADY HAVE SEEN SOME FALLOUT FROM THIS CLI-
MATE IN THE CLOSE VOTE ON THE HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT,
ALTHOUGH CONG. VANIK BELIEVES THE MANY NEGATIVE VOTES
TEND TO BE BEST EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT MANY CONGRESSME-

N ARE NOT WELL INFORMED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO US-SOVIET RELATIONS, LUERS CONTINUED,

THE ROOTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP ARE STILL DEEP. PROGRESS CONTINUES IN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND ARMS CONTROL, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS. THERE IS A CONVICTION THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS, ESPECIALLY IN ARMS CONTROL. LUERS NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SPENT FOUR AND A HALF HOURS WITH GROMYKO -- AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE PRESIDENT GIVES TO WORKING OUT OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIETS.

6. AMB. NICOLAE SAID ROMANIA IS FOLLOWING US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIPS. CONFIDENTIAL

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TIONS FOR "MANY REASONS" AS PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU HAD EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. HE EXPRESSED ROMANIA'S HOPE THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN MIND THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISARMAMENT.

7. UNSSOD. NICOLAE SAID ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER MANESCU WILL ATTEND THE SPECIAL UN SESSION. HE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE JUNE 6 OR 7 AND TO SPEAK ON JUNE 8. SO FAR, THERE IS NO REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL MEETING WITH US LEADERS. NICOLAE NOTED THAT ONLY A SHORT TIME HAD PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT, AND LUERS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS A VERY BUSY PERIOD FOR BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

8. UN-ROMANIAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER. NICOLAE POINTED OUT THAT THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THIS CENTER IS DUE TO EXPIRE IN AUGUST 1979. HE SAID THAT RAFAEL SALAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA), HAD PROPOSED TO THE UNDP THAT THE ROMANIAN CENTER'S ACTIVITIES BE EXTENDED BEYOND 1979. NICOLAE REQUESTED THAT THE US REPORT THE PROPOSAL MADE BY SALAS. LUERS RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION. (COMMENT: FUNDING FOR THE ROMANIAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE JUNE MEETING IN GENEVA OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. THE US POSITION IS UNDER REVIEW. EMBASSY BUCHAREST WILL BE ADVISED WHEN A DECISION IS REACHED. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON CENTER'S UTILITY WOULD BE WELCOME.) VANCE

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